



## Policy on Sharing of Model Organisms April 2020

On May 7, 2004, NIH implemented a policy on "Sharing of Model Organisms for Biomedical Research." This policy requires investigators to include a plan for organism sharing as a component of certain grant applications. The NIH expects that new, genetically modified model organisms and related resources generated with the aid of NIH funding will be distributed and shared with the scientific community in a timely way, generally at least upon publication of the primary results announcing the development of the genetically modified model organisms.

### Who needs to write a plan?

Investigators submitting any type of NIH award—grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts, (including competing renewals) and SBIR and STTR awards are expected to include a concise plan addressing the timely distribution of organisms and resources, unless the proposed research will not generate new model organisms and related resources. See [NIH FAQs](#) for exceptions.

### What should the plan cover?

The plan should describe how the investigator will share those organisms in a timely manner with colleagues from non-profit and for-profit organizations who request them. If such sharing is restricted or not possible, the plan should state why.

### What must be shared?

Depending upon accepted practice, new, genetically modified organisms may be shared as mature organisms, sperm, eggs, embryos, or, in some cases, vectors used to generate transgenic or knockout organisms.

### How do I share?

Organisms can be shared either by distributing them from your own lab, or depositing the organism in a repository such as Jackson Labs or ATCC.

*Note:*

- *You may request funding in the grant to support anticipated sharing expenses.*
- *Generally, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) requires that the sending and receiving of all research materials be documented by a signed contract. Refer to RTM-1019 for when and how to initiate Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) and/or related contracts.*

### How will this affect my grant review?

The adequacy of plans for sharing model organisms will be considered by reviewers when a competing application is evaluated. Reviewers will be asked to describe their assessment of the sharing plan in an

administrative note and, except for some special initiatives, will not include their assessment in the overall priority score.

## Where can I obtain additional information?

- [NIH Policy on Sharing of Model Organisms for Biomedical Research - NOT-OD-04-042](#)
- [NIH Model Organism Sharing Policy](#)
- [NIH Policy on Sharing Model Organisms - Printable Brochure](#)
- [NIH FAQs on Sharing Model Organisms and Related Resources](#)

## Sample Plan:

"As for our plan to share materials and our management of intellectual property, we will adhere to the NIH Grant Policy on Sharing of Unique Research Resources including the [Principles and Guidelines for Recipients of NIH Research Grants and Contracts on Obtaining and Disseminating Biomedical Research Resources](#) issued December 23, 1999. All 'model organisms' generated by this project will be distributed widely or deposited into a repository/stock center making them available to the broader research community, either before or immediately after publication, in accordance with MSK policies. If we assume responsibility for distributing the newly generated model organisms, we will fill requests in a timely fashion. In addition, we will provide relevant protocols and published genetic and phenotypic data upon request. Material transfers will be made with no more restrictive terms than in the Simple Letter Agreement (SLA) or the Uniform Biological Materials Transfer Agreement (UBMTA) and without reach through requirements. Should any intellectual property arise which requires a patent, we will ensure that the technology (materials and data) remains widely available to the research community in accordance with MSK policies and the NIH Principles and Guidelines document."

## Optional insert, if applicable:

Our lab has demonstrated its commitment to sharing by providing \_\_\_\_\_ over the past \_\_\_\_\_ years. The PI needs to fill in the blanks.